

# Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

© Western Newspaper Union.

## Kidnaping of Chiang Kai-shek May Bring on Warfare

WAR clouds again gathered over the Far East when Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, dictator of China, was kidnaped at Sianfu, Shensi province, by troops commanded by Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, former war lord of Manchuria. The mutinous soldiers demanded immediate declaration of war against Japan; a pledge from the Nanking government to recover all lost territory, including Manchuria, and reorganization of the Chinese Nationalist party, the Kuomintang, so that Chinese communists might be admitted to membership.



Gen. Chiang Kai-shek

Japan professed to believe that Chang's action was promoted by Russia, and officials in Tokyo said forceful steps by Japan might be necessary. The naval command directed its China squadrons to be on guard lest a Chinese civil war result.

Maj. Gen. Kita, Japanese military attache at Shanghai, declared that Marshal Chang's troops had taken a frank stand for communism, which compels Japan "to make a firm and determined stand from the viewpoint of Japan's national defense."

The soviet news agency Tass in Moscow issued an official denial of reports that Russia had conspired in the Chinese crisis, but diplomats in the Far East were of opinion that Moscow would intervene if war should break out between China and Japan. Japanese action would be based on the reported setting up of an independent government at Sianfu by Marshal Chang with the support of soviet Russia.

There were reports that Chiang Kai-shek had been killed by his captors, but Marshal Chang telegraphed Acting Premier Kung: "I have cherished an affectionate regard for the generalissimo for eight years. I assume full responsibility for his safety."

## Peace Proposal Is Signed by American Republics

REPRESENTATIVES of the 21 American republics gathered in the conference at Buenos Aires all signed two measures designed to maintain peace, security and non-intervention in the Western world. These projects are:

A plan for maintenance of peace and security which provides for consultation in the event of war within the American continents or war abroad which menaces American peace.

A reiteration of the resolution of the 1933 Pan-American conference, for nonintervention by one nation in another's affairs. This carried also a Mexican amendment for consultation if intervention appears necessary.

## Proposed Law to Mobilize Industry in War Time

WITH the approval of Secretary of War Woodring and Secretary of the Navy Swanson a bill has been drafted for the mobilization of industry in war time. It would confer upon the President power to draft industrial management, commander manufacturing plants, fix prices, ration the distribution of commodities, and regulate or close exchanges.

This plan is a revision of the program for industrial mobilization submitted by the War department to the war policies commission in 1931. It does not take into consideration the tax bill to "take the profits out of war" which was put through the house last session, but it is recommended by the War and Navy departments that tax provisions be

not so drastic as to "hinder, hamper or destroy the more important mission of producing munitions as required in war."

## Fair Competition Act Is Asked by Berry's Council

SOMETHING very like the old NRA is the plan for control over the management of business favored by the council for industrial progress sponsored by Industrial Coordinator George L. Berry. The council, not very well attended by employer representatives, approved the report of a committee asking enactment of a general "fair competition act" prohibiting business from operation if it did not follow government edicts regarding price, advertising, wage, and hour standards or other conditions laid down.

A new administrative body would be empowered to investigate and prosecute violations of the act. This same agency would set up minimum wages, maximum hours and fair trade practices for any industry or trade.

The hearing of complaints would be before a sort of industrial supreme court vested with equity powers, including the power of issuing permanent and temporary injunctions.

## American Millionaires in 1934 Numbered Only 33

ACCORDING to an income tax analysis given out by the bureau of internal revenue, thirty-three Americans received incomes in excess of one million dollars during 1934, or a decrease of seventeen millionaires from the year before.

This group of 33 millionaires enjoyed an income of \$57,775,000, but they were forced to pour \$32,211,000 into the coffers of the United States treasury. They paid a tax of 59 per cent on their surtax net income.

One lone individual in the United States had an income of more than 5 million dollars for 1934. The internal revenue tables showed that this person is a resident of New York, but the identity is hidden, for no names are named in this report.

## President's Son Probably Will Be His Secretary

IT IS believed that James Roosevelt, oldest son of the President, who has been with him on the South American tour, will serve as one of his father's secretaries and his general aid, without salary and maybe without title.

The President is said to feel he must have at his side some one who knows him intimately and who can perform many of the confidential little errands which were performed by Mr. Howe and Gus Generich, both now dead.

## Britain Defaults Again but Hints at Parley

GREAT BRITAIN again defaults on its war debt to the United States, but intimates it would like to re-open negotiations for reduction of the debt. This time the British government does not state it has found no new reason to warrant a resumption of payments. All the other debtor nations also defaulted except Finland, which as usual proudly paid the installment due.

## Better Farm Program Promised by Wallace

MEMBERS of the American Farm Bureau federation, assembled in Pasadena, Calif., were told by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace that the government would provide a better farm program than the AAA; but he also said the farmer must be willing to accept "small increases in the imports of certain agricultural products."

"In the cause of peace," he said, "the farmers of the United States must learn to say 'yes' as often as possible to agricultural imports

from Pan-America, while at the same time reserving the right to say 'no' when any vital branch of agriculture is likely to be menaced by too great imports."

Mr. Wallace declared the preservation of world peace is more fundamental than national agricultural conservation, and added, "There is an important relation between the two, however. Danger of the United States becoming involved in a serious war comes from the fact that we export goods to Europe and when war comes one side or the other interferes with trade.

"Last year 68 per cent of our agricultural exports went to five countries which are certain to be involved in any major difficulty in Europe and Asia. Only 10 per cent of our agricultural exports went to Pan-America. Both our hearts and our heads lead us increasingly to Pan-America but the facts are stubborn and of necessity can be brought in line with our desires only slowly."

The federation conferred upon Mr. Wallace its highest honor, the award for distinguished service to agriculture.

## Edward Abdicates and George Is the King

LOVE and the British constitution are the winners in the great contest that has stirred the vast empire to its furthest borders. Edward VIII, steadfast in his determination to make Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson his wife, abdicated as king of Great Britain and emperor of India, and his brother, the duke of York, reigns in his stead as George VI.



George VI

Edward's fateful decision was communicated to the house of commons by Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin. Haggard and deeply moved, the man who has borne the brunt of the struggle on behalf of the cabinet and parliament handed the speaker the royal message and the speaker read it to the half stunned members. This is what Edward said:

"Realizing as I do the gravity of this step I can only hope that I shall have the understanding of my peoples in the decision I have taken and the reasons which have led me to take it.

"I conceive that I am not overlooking the duty that rests on me to place in the forefront the public interest when I declare that I am conscious that I can no longer discharge this heavy task with efficiency or with satisfaction to myself.

"I have accordingly this morning executed an instrument of abdication in the terms following:

"I, Edward VIII of Great Britain, Ireland, the British dominions beyond the seas, king, emperor of India, do hereby declare my irrevocable determination to renounce the throne for myself and my descendants. My desire is that effect should be given to this instrument of abdication immediately.

"In token thereof I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of December, 1936, in the presence of the witnesses whose signatures are subscribed."

There followed a request that the accession of his brother to the throne be expedited, and accordingly enabling legislation effecting the abdication and the accession of the new king was promptly introduced and put through the house of commons and the house of lords.

The new king was proclaimed with the traditional ceremony following an assembly of the accession council made up of privy councilors and other distinguished persons.

That evening the ex-king went on the air to broadcast a message of farewell to the half billion people who had been his subjects.

King George's first official act was to make his brother Edward

duke of Windsor. The entourage of the abdicated monarch seem to prefer to call him Prince Edward. For the present he is in seclusion at the castle of Baron Eugene Rothschild not far from Vienna.

In most questionable taste was a radio broadcast by the archbishop of Canterbury after the affair was all over. The primate scored Edward for seeking his private happiness "in a manner inconsistent with Christian principles of marriage and within a social circle whose standards and ways of life are alien to all the best instincts and traditions of his people."

Parliaments of all the British dominions passed legislation ratifying the abdication of Edward and the accession of George. But the Irish Free State, as had been expected, adopted measures almost eliminating the last vestiges of its adherence to the empire. The dail eireann erased the name of the British king from the Irish constitution, abolished the office of governor general, the king's representative, and described limited functions for George VI of England in the foreign affairs of the Free State.

## Joint Council Formed by Automotive Workers

PLANS of John L. Lewis and his associates in the C. I. O. for organizing the automobile industry workers seemingly are greatly furthered by the formation of a joint council of the United Automobile Workers of America and the Federation of Flat Glass Workers. These two unions, controlling as they do virtually organized workers in the automotive industry, have agreed to unite in a common cause in any controversy with the industry. They are both members of the Lewis group and so are under suspension by the American Federation of Labor.

## Labor Relations Board Accuses Steel Concerns

FOR the first time the government has taken a hand in the steel labor crisis. The national labor relations board has issued a complaint charging the United States Steel corporation and its subsidiary, the Carnegie-Illinois Steel company, with "interfering with the self-organization of employees" in Carnegie's 21 plants.

This action followed the board's investigation of charges filed by Philip Murray, chairman of the SWOC and M. F. Tighe, veteran president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

## Mediation in Spanish War Is Proposed

FRANCE and Great Britain united in an invitation to Germany, Italy, Russia and Portugal to join them in an effort to end the Spanish war by mediation. It was thought the time was ripe for this, since both the government forces and the rebels are exhausted by their fierce and inconclusive fighting.

The announcement of the plan came on the eve of the meeting of the League of Nations council, summoned to Geneva to consider the Madrid-Valencia government's appeal against Germany and Italy because of their recognition of the Fascist rebel junta. It is the hope of France and Britain that the Spanish people will be permitted to decide by ballot whether they shall have a Fascist or a Socialist government.

FROM Manila came belated dispatches telling of the worst disaster that ever befell the Philippines—a great flood which swept through the fertile and densely populated Cagayan valley in northern Luzon and destroying possibly thousands of the inhabitants. The full extent of the death toll may never be known. The waters of the Cagayan river, suddenly swollen by a typhoon and torrential rains, inundat-

ed many villages and towns in the 50 mile wide valley. So isolated was the stricken area that a former provincial military commander required four days to fight his way to an outlying point from which he informed the world of the disaster. Military airplanes were used to carry medical supplies and relief agents to the district.

## Dutch Airliner Crashes; Fourteen Are Killed

FOURTEEN persons perished when a big Dutch airliner crashed near Croyden airport in England soon after taking off in a dense fog. The plane struck trees and houses and was destroyed by flames. Among the victims were Jan de la Cierva, inventor of the autogyro, and Admiral Saloman Lindman, former prime minister of Sweden. There were only three survivors of the disaster.

## Germany Adds New Ship to Growing Navy

WITH the launching of the Gneisenau, her second 26,000-ton battleship, Germany moved another step toward her goal of a navy large enough to bottle up the Russian fleet. Reichsfuehrer Hitler and many high officials attended the ceremony. The ship was christened by Frau Maerker, widow of the commander of the old Gneisenau, which went down in the battle of the Falkland islands 22 years ago.

Berlin correspondents believe the new German fleet will have reached 420,000 tons by 1942. It will possess no less than five 35,000-ton battleships, to which can be added two 26,000-ton battleships, three existing 1,000-ton pocket battleships and fourteen light and heavy cruisers, including three more 10,000-ton boats.

## Plan to End Electoral College System

MEMBERS of the electoral college met in the capitals of their respective states and went through the empty formality of casting their votes for Presidential candidates—523 for Franklin D. Roosevelt and 8 for Alf M. Landon. About the same time it was announced in Washington that a move to abolish the antiquated electoral college system had been started and would have the approval of many members of both houses of congress.



Senator Norris

Leaders of this plan are Senator George W. Norris, Independent, of Nebraska, and Representative Clarence Lea, Democrat, of California, both of whom have previously advocated a constitutional amendment making the change, substituting a system whereby state electoral votes would be divided among presidential candidates on the basis of their relative popular vote strength in the state.

Under the present system President Roosevelt, polling approximately 27,750,000 votes, received 523 electoral votes. Governor Landon, polling approximately 16,680,000 votes, received 8 votes. Each Roosevelt electoral vote represents the desires of 53,000 voters. Each Landon vote represents the wishes of 2,085,000 voters.

Under the proposed amendment the electoral votes in the last election would have been divided: Roosevelt, 322; Landon, 194; others, 15.

"Even disregarding the last election, in the average election of the last sixty years over 45 per cent of the voters of the country, being all those who voted for minority candidates in all the states, have been disregarded in computing the final results," said Representative Lea. "Not only are the minority votes disregarded but the electoral votes represented by them are cast for their opponents."